Amendment to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 and add new claims 13-16, as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, a complete listing of claims is provided herein. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a set of software components for component-oriented software development, said method comprising:

providing a set of software components out of which a software application to be executed by an apparatus comprising processor means and memory means can be partly or entirely assembled~~, said method comprising:~~;

assigning a different numeric identifier to each component of said set of software components; and

storing each assigned numeric identifier in the corresponding component.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric identifier comprises a bit-length of 8 or 16 bit.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising loading two or more software components of said set of software components ~~together in the same step~~ into said memory means of said apparatus, and storing said two or more software components therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

loading said [[a]] software application into said apparatus and storing said software application in said memory means;

providing means for instantiating said loaded software components upon request of said software application;

loading said means for instantiating into said apparatus; and

storing said means for instantiating in said memory means.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a full Java Virtual Machine being able to execute every Java instruction.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a limited Java Virtual Machine being able to execute only certain Java instructions.

7. (Original) A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of claim 1.

8. (Original) A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of claim 4.

9. (Original) A computer program product loadable into memory means of a digital computer, comprising software code for performing the steps of claim 1.

10. (Original) A computer program product loadable into memory means of a digital computer, comprising software code for performing the steps of claim 4.

11. (Currently Amended) A device comprising processor means and memory means, ~~such as a chip card, a Java Card, a set top box or a Personal Digital Assistant,~~ in which a set of software components is stored, said software components to be partly or entirely assembled into a software application to be executed by said device, wherein each of said software components comprises a different numeric identifier, preferably comprising a bit-length of 8 or 16 bits.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

a stored software application; and

means for instantiating said software components upon request of said software application.

13. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the device comprises at least one of a chip card, a Java Card, a set-top box and a Personal Digital Assistant.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of software components is capable of at least one of being, subsequent to being partly or entirely assembled into said software application, updated by updating at least one software component of said set of software components and supplemented by adding at least one software component to said set of software components.

15. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein said set of software components is capable of at least one of being, subsequent to being partly or entirely assembled into said software application, updated by updating at least one software component of said set of software components and supplemented by adding at least one software component to said set of software components.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing said apparatus with a limited Java Virtual Machine being able to execute only a subset of Java instructions; and

accessing, by said apparatus, a full Java Virtual Machine residing at a computing unit coupled to said apparatus, said accessing allowing said apparatus to execute additional Java instructions.